

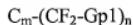
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (previously presented): A composition comprising a ion-dissociative functional compound represented by a chemical formula as follows:



where, m is a natural number for carbon atoms to form a spherical carbon molecule; n is a natural number; and Gp1 denotes an ion-dissociative group.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 29, wherein C_m denotes a fullerene molecule.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 29, wherein the ion-dissociative group is a proton-dissociative group selected from the group consisting of hydrogensulfate ester group (-OSO₂OH), sulfonic acid group (-SO₂OH), dihydrogen phosphate ester group (-OPO(OH)₂), hydrogen phosphate ester group (-OPO(OH)-), phosphono group (-PO(OH)₂), carboxyl group (-COOH), sulfoneamide group (-SO₂-NH₂), sulfoneimide group (-SO₂-NH-SO₂-), methanedisulfonyl group (-SO₂-CH₂-SO₂-), carboxamide group (-CO-NH₂), and carboximide group (-CO-NH-CO-).

Claim 32 (previously presented): An ionic conductor which contains the ion-dissociative functional compound defined in any of claims 29 to 31.

Claims 33 -36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (previously presented): A composition comprising an ion-dissociative functional compound having a linkage structure represented by a chemical formula as follows:



where, m is a natural number for carbon atoms to form a spherical carbon molecule; and Gp2 denotes an ion-dissociative group.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 37, wherein C_m is a fullerene molecule.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The composition as defined in claim 37, wherein the ion-dissociative group is a sulfoneimide group.

Claims 40-57 (canceled).